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Missiles

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum*

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* This reply was received after the submission of the main report.

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II. Replies received from Member States

Islamic Republic of Iran

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[12 August 2003]

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the issue of missiles in all its aspects (A/57/229) as the first multilateral and systematic step in dealing with this issue. We firmly believe that this international endeavour would strengthen the central role of the United Nations and its related bodies in the field of arms regulation and disarmament, which in turn would increase the security and stability of all Member States at the regional and global levels.

2. Given the complexities involved in considering the issue of missiles in all its aspects, including missiles as one of the means of delivery of weapons of mass destruction, their application and role in the conventional context and peaceful uses, and above all their role in launching civil satellites and space vehicles, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the following points:

(a) As the report reiterated, "there exists at present no universally accepted norms or instruments to deal specifically with missile-related concerns in all their aspects". Therefore, in our view the United Nations should continue to have a primary and central role in dealing with the issue of missiles, taking into account all the views and concerns of Member States, including their regional and global concerns and their legitimate defensive needs, in a comprehensive, balanced and non-discriminatory manner. Furthermore, the support of Member States for the resolution on missiles which has been adopted by the General Assembly in the past four consecutive years indicates a continuing need for such a resolution;

(b) Nothing should be done by any Member State or group of States to undermine the central role of the United Nations in this field and the efforts carried out since 1999 within the framework of the United Nations on the basis of the resolution on missiles;

(c) Any parallel initiative that would overshadow the possible outcome of the next panel of governmental experts, to be held in 2004 according to operative paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 57/71, on missiles should be avoided.

3. The second panel of governmental experts should concentrate in a comprehensive, balanced and non-discriminatory manner on the following issues related to missiles:

(a) To seek complementary measures to explore ways and means to secure the international community against the threats posed by some types of missiles;

(b) To discuss and prepare specific recommendations with a view to dispelling the concerns of all States on the issue of missiles in all their aspects;

(c) To examine a specific mechanism to promote the peaceful uses of missiles, inter alia, in launching civil satellites and space vehicles.